

To: Joint Legislative Justice Oversight Committee

**From: Joanne Charbonneau, Interim Statewide Clerk to include the Vermont Judicial
Bureau
Robert Ide, Commissioner, Department of Motor Vehicles**

Date: December 29, 2016

Subject: Act 147 – Statewide Driver Restoration Program

In 2016, the Legislature passed Act 147 into law. The aim of the legislation was to limit the use of driver license suspensions and to allow more Vermonters to get back on the road legally. Section 2 stipulated that the Vermont Judicial Bureau and the Department of Motor Vehicles would carry out a one-time, statewide Driver Restoration Program (Program) similar to the two previous Driver Restoration Days occurring in Chittenden and Windsor counties in previous years.

In accordance with Sec. 2(g) the Department of Motor Vehicles and the Vermont Judicial Bureau have prepared the attached report on the Driver Restoration Program.

Background:

The statewide Driver Restoration Program was held September 1, 2016 through November 30, 2016, allowing drivers who had outstanding traffic judgments to pay a reduced rate of \$30.00 per outstanding ticket.

All unpaid traffic judgments entered July 1, 1990 – Jun 30, 2012 were eligible for the Program. Fines for commercial vehicle violations were not eligible to be reduced through the Program. In addition, the reinstatement fee (\$80.00) payable to DMV was also waived for participants of the Program.

The intent of the Program was to allow Vermonters a chance to pay a reduced rate on outstanding traffic judgments in order to get them to pay the fines and regain their driving privilege, allowing them to get to work legally once again.

The Program was advertised on the main page of the Vermont Judiciary and the Department of Motor Vehicles' websites prior to, and for the duration of, the Program. In addition, periodic reminders were posted to the DMV and Vermont Judiciary Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts in order to reach a broad spectrum of Vermonters. All DMV offices were provided applications to be distributed to the public as well. Additionally, the Agency of Transportation and the Governor's Office issued a press release advertising the Program prior to its commencement that was picked up by multiple news outlets.

Required questions:

- (1) All costs associated with running the Program¹:

Vermont Judicial Bureau - \$19,180

Department of Motor Vehicles - \$24,540

- (2) Number of traffic violation judgments reduced to \$30.00 under subsection (b) of this section:

3427

Total number of these judgments paid: **1580**²

Total amount collected in connection with payment of the judgments: **\$47,400**³

- (3) Number of persons eligible for a reduced judgment under subsection (b) of this section who did not apply for a reduced judgment: Approximately **44,100**⁴

- (4) Number of suspensions terminated: **1352**

Number of unique persons whose suspensions were terminated under (d)(2) of this section: **253**

- (5) Number of persons whose license or privilege to operate was fully reinstated as a result of the termination of suspensions under subdivision (d)(2) of this section: **117**⁵

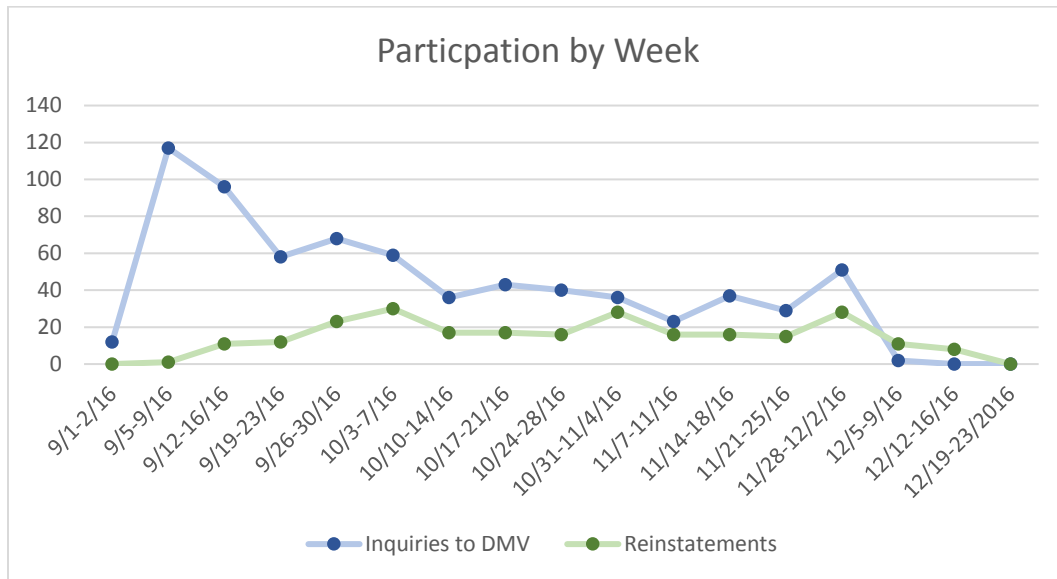
¹Costs accurate through 12/22/2016. Both DMV and Vermont Judiciary costs are expected to continue to rise as outstanding reduced judgments are paid.

²Judgments paid through 12/16/2016.

³Total funds collected through 12/16/2016, will increase as outstanding reduced judgments are paid.

⁴Potential for the same individual being suspended under multiple names or personal identification numbers due to name misspellings, name changes, etc.

⁵Reinstatements through 12/22/2016. Driver license and privilege to operate reinstatements are expected to increase as outstanding reduced judgments are paid.



Week	Inquiries to DMV	Reinstatements
9/1-2/16	12	0
9/5-9/16	117	1
9/12-16/16	96	11
9/19-23/16	58	12
9/26-30/16	68	23
10/3-7/16	59	30
10/10-14/16	36	17
10/17-21/16	43	17
10/24-28/16	40	16
10/31-11/4/16	36	28
11/7-11/16	23	16
11/14-18/16	37	16
11/21-25/16	29	15
11/28-12/2/16	51	28
12/5-9/16	2	11
12/12-16/16	0	8
12/19-23/16	0	0

